



# NEWS Release

Montana State Parks • 1420 E. 6th Avenue • Helena, MT 59620

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## **Public Comment Sought on EA for Eden Bridge Amended Host Site Improvement Project at Smith River State Park**

(Helena, MT) –Montana State Parks ([stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)) announced today that public comment is being sought on a draft environmental assessment (EA) for an amended host site improvement project located at Eden Bridge in Smith River State Park. Eden Bridge is the take-out site for recreational floaters on the Smith River near Ulm, MT. Approximately 5,000 people per year float the Smith River.

In 2014, Montana State Parks proposed to improve the host site area at Eden Bridge located in Smith River State Park by constructing two gravel pads for recreational vehicle parking, constructing gravel picnic areas adjacent to each gravel pad; installation of two shared underground water cisterns; two underground septic holding tanks; construction of one septic drain field; relocating the existing phone and electricity pedestal; relocation the maintenance storage shed and the entrance road to a safer location approximately 100' west of the current entrance.

Since the approval of these improvements in November 2014, Montana State Parks has reconsidered the installation of the potable water cisterns and believe a more suitable option is the drilling of a well. Because a well and its associated well pump and water lines were not considered in the original environmental analysis, an amended EA was required.

Providing the basic amenities of stable and level parking pads for the volunteer hosts as well as convenient and reliable electricity, water, sewer and phone will greatly enhance the ability to attract and maintain quality hosts for the long-term, ensuring a high-quality experience for floaters, as well as non-floating visitors.

The cost of this proposed project is estimated to be \$20,000. The funds for the project are provided by the Parks' Division major maintenance program.

The public is invited to comment. To view the draft Environmental Assessment visit: [http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn\\_0040.html](http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0040.html).

Public comments will be accepted for 21 days. Comments should be submitted by Tuesday, April 7 at 5pm.

To submit comments online at: [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) click on “public notices” on the right-hand navigation bar. Or by direct link here:

[http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn\\_0040.html](http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0040.html)

The public may also send comments by email to: [EdenBridgeHostPad@mt.gov](mailto:EdenBridgeHostPad@mt.gov). Or by regular mail to:  
Eden Bridge Host Pad Comments, 4600 Giant Springs Rd. Great Falls, MT 59405. Attention: Colin Maas.

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